



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Galena Fire Department, the oldest fire  
3 department in Illinois, celebrated its 175th birthday on  
4 February 1, 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, The Department is planning a series of events in  
6 August to celebrate the anniversary; and

7 WHEREAS, The Galena Fire and Protection Company was formed  
8 in 1830; since its inception, it has gone from a company with  
9 just a couple of fire hooks, ladders, axes, and buckets to the  
10 department it is now; and

11 WHEREAS, On November 8, 1836, the first fire department was  
12 organized with a roll of 66 members; from then on, there came  
13 to be several different fire departments throughout Galena; and

14 WHEREAS, On August 1, 1876, John Hellman was made chief  
15 director of all the fire stations in Galena; all five of these  
16 fire stations were made into what is now known as the "Fabulous  
17 Five"; and

18 WHEREAS, The Galena Fire Department became a mechanized  
19 force in 1917; the era of the "Fabulous Five" was closed in  
20 1935 and reorganized into the present fire department on South  
21 Bench Street; and

22 WHEREAS, The Galena Fire Department has what is believed to  
23 be the oldest fire station in the State; it was built in an  
24 Italianate style; it has an overhung roof, corbels, and a watch  
25 tower; an antique fire engine is showcased within the fire  
26 station, the "Liberty", a hand pumper that arrived on January  
27 5, 1855, from Philadelphia; the Liberty helped the Galena Fire  
28 Department for more than 50 years and is presently being  
29 restored; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we congratulate the Galena Fire Department on the occasion of  
4 its 175th anniversary and honor its current members for their  
5 efforts to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens of  
6 Galena; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the Galena Fire Department as an expression of our  
9 esteem.